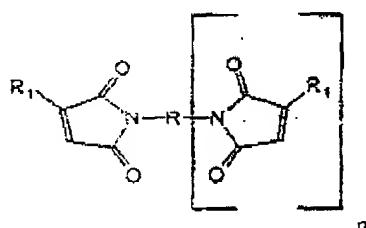


Claim 1 (currently amended) A composition consisting essentially of crosslinkable components useful for providing low compression set, surface tack free thermoset polymers by curing with free radical initiators in the presence of air, the components comprising:

a) At least one compound (A) having the formula (I):

(I)



Wherein n is 1, R is divalent, or trivalent and is selected from the group consisting of cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 2 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 5 to 20 carbon atoms, aromatic groups having from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms and alkyl aromatic groups having from about 7 to 24 carbon atoms, and wherein the divalent, or trivalent groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, replacing a carbon atom, or carbon atoms and each R¹ is identical and is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

(b) At least one compound (B) selected from the group consisting of sulfur containing organic compounds capable of accelerating sulfur vulcanization of a polymer capable of being crosslinked by sulfur, polysulfide polymers and mixtures of said sulfur containing compounds; and

(c) A free radical initiator (C) selected from the group consisting of organic peroxides and azo initiators.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) A composition comprising a composition as defined in Claim 1 and a polymer curable by free radical initiators.

Claim 4 (original) A process comprising forming the composition of Claim 3 into a shaped article and then subjecting it in the presence of molecular oxygen to a temperature sufficient to initiate decomposition of the free radical initiator and thereby obtaining a cured shaped article substantially free of surface tack.

Claim 5 (previously presented) A composition formed by mixing compounds (A), (B) and (C) as defined in claim 1.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claims 8-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (original) A composition as defined in claim 1 also comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of chlorinated polyethylene and chlorosulfonated polyethylene.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein the free radical initiator is selected from organic peroxides.

Claim 14 (original) A surface tack free cured polymer cured in the presence of molecular oxygen by free radicals generated by decomposition of the free radical initiator in a composition as defined in claim 3.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A process for making a low compression set, surface tack free thermoset polymer cured by free radicals generated by decomposition of a free radical initiator contained therein in the presence of molecular oxygen which comprises compounding said polymer with a composition as defined in claim 1 and supplying sufficient heat energy to decompose the free radical initiator thus introduced into the polymer.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A process for making a curable composition capable of being cured to a low compression set, tack free surface in the presence of molecular oxygen by a free radical initiator which process comprises compounding a polymer capable of being crosslinked by a free radical initiator with a composition as defined in claim 1.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein compound (B) is selected from the group consisting of dialkylthiuram tetrasulfides, diarylthiuram tetrasulfides, alkylphenol disulfides, tetraalkylthiuram monosulfides, tetraarylthiuram monosulfides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein the free radical initiator is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 18 wherein compound (C) is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein compound (B) is selected from the group consisting of 4,4-dithiomorpholine, acyclicalkyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, cyclicalkyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, aryl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, alkylphenol disulfides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 21 wherein compound (C) is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

Claim 23 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, 4,4-dithiomorpholine, alkylphenoldisulfide and N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamide.

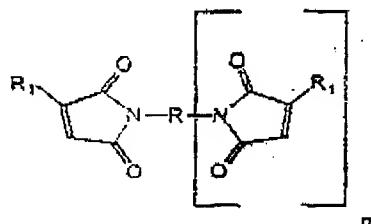
Claim 24 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, dipentamethylene thiuram tetrasulfide, alkylphenoldisulfide and tetramethylthiuram monosulfide.

Claim 25 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, dipentamethylenethiuram tetrasulfide, alkylphenol disulfide and N-t-butyl-benzothiazole-2-sulfenimide.

Claim 26 (previously presented) A composition comprising

a) at least one compound (A) having the formula (I):

(I)



wherein n is 1, R is divalent or trivalent and is selected from the group consisting of cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 2 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 5 to 20 carbon atoms, aromatic groups having from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms and alkyl aromatic groups having from about 7 to 24 carbon atoms, and wherein the divalent, or trivalent groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, replacing a carbon atom, or carbon atoms and each R¹ is identical and is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

(b) At least one compound (B) selected from the group consisting of sulfur containing organic compounds capable of accelerating sulfur vulcanization of a polymer capable of being crosslinked by sulfur, polysulfide polymers and mixtures of said sulfur containing compounds,

which composition is formulated as a masterbatch on a carrier selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline wax, polycaprolactone, EPDM, EPM, EVA, PE and mixtures thereof.

Claim 27 (previously presented) A composition as defined in claim 1 formulated as a masterbatch on a carrier selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline wax, polycaprolactone, EPDM, EPM, EVA, PE and mixtures thereof.